

Agency: Natural Resources**Project Title:****Project Type:** Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades

Nenana to Fairbanks Multi-Use Trails, Tanana Valley State Forest - Alaska Long Trail

State Funding Requested: \$1,600,000
One-Time Need

House District: 6 / C**Brief Project Description:**

This project would build 18 miles of multi-use trails through the working State Forest, connecting about 35 miles of existing forestry road system. This system would create a complete motorized/non-motorized trail link to the Parks Highway near Nenana, adding a motorized braid to the proposed Alaska Long Trail.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$1,600,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2023 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$1,600,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Detailed Project Description and Justification:**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project would connect Nenana and Fairbanks, passing through the Tanana Valley State Forest (TVSF), serving as a key component of the proposed Alaska Long Trail. This section takes advantage of many scenic miles of unpaved forestry roads that currently offer excellent year-round opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized recreationists. However, the roads are not continuous and do not provide a complete route from Fairbanks to Nenana. This project would build 18 miles of multi-use trails through the working State Forest, connecting about 35 miles of existing forestry road system. The project would also regrade and maintain inactive sections of forestry road along the route. This system would create a complete motorized/non-motorized trail link to the Parks Highway near Nenana. Trail locations and use would be managed to maintain timber management as the area's primary use, but take advantage of recreation opportunities without conflicting with that goal.

BENEFITS AND NEED

The proposed connections and loops are desirable because they

Complete the northern link of the Alaska Long Trail from Fairbanks to Nenana for use by Alaska residents and visitors, including directional signs, maps and information kiosks;

Provide excellent recreation opportunities for day-trip recreationists who are returning to their starting point in Fairbanks or Nenana;

Provide for maintenance on timber roads to support future timber harvest.

LAND OWNERSHIP

This proposed route remains entirely within the TVSF: heading west, it ends following the existing Maisch forestry road onto the Parks Highway about five miles north of Nenana, thus providing an almost complete link from Fairbanks to Nenana and

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

requiring a recreationist to travel only a short stretch on the highway to Nenana.

PROJECT LEAD AND PARTNERS

Project lead: Interior Alaska Trails and Parks Foundation (IATPF)

Partners: DNR Division of Forestry; Happy Trails, Inc.

If funded, IATPF will take the lead on this project, with some assistance and permits obtained from DNR Division of Forestry. Alaska Trails and the Fairbanks North Star Borough are active supporters of this project and will assist as needed.

PROJECT STATUS

On the northern end of this TVSF multi-use segment, the Division of Forestry has already received a grant through federal Recreational Trails Program for recreational improvements to the existing Rosie Creek forestry road system. The project repairs the existing forestry road for recreational use, adds signage and GPS map links, and creates a large parking lot along the Parks Highway to provide a trailhead adequate for motorized and non-motorized use.

USE: Multi-use: motorized/non-motorized

ESTIMATED COST

Build 18 miles of 7' wide multi-use trails at \$55,000 per mile = \$990,000

Brushing, regrading, resurfacing, and repair of 35 miles of forestry roads: (12' wide, naturally surfaced, full bench, with 3% outslowing) x \$5,280 per mile = \$184,800

Map kiosk, directional signs: \$30,000

Bridge over Bonanza Creek: \$150,000

Design and environmental review: \$100,000

Project oversight and management (10%): \$140,520

Total: \$1,595,320

Project Timeline:

2023-2024

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

DNR Division of Forestry

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No